

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 4-129502, and rejected claims 3 - 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 4-129502 in view of either *Dyke* (U.S. Patent No. 3,443,671), *Perez, II* (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,094), or *Yoshida et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,651,389). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Claim 1 has been amended herein, substantially incorporating the limitation of claim 5, which has been canceled. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

The Examiner argues that JP 4-129502 discloses a slide fastener where a reinforcement member is bonded to a fastener tape along both outer sides of a fastener chain. The Examiner admits that JP 4-129502 fails to disclose using a thermal welding film, but argues that *Yoshida et al.* teaches a slide fastener structure wherein a reinforcement member is bonded to a fastener tape at the end of both outer sides of a fastener chain and the bonding is accomplished by a bonding layer made of a synthetic resin film having a low melting point.

In *Yoshida et al.*, however, the reinforcement piece is not bonded to a fastener tape continuously along both outer sides as required by amended claim 1. Instead, the reinforcing piece is only attached to the end portion of the of the separable bottom end stop. Thus, the combination of JP 4-129502 and *Yoshida et al.* fails to disclose or suggest a reinforcement member bonded to a fastener tape continuously along both outer sides of a fastener chain with a thermal welding resin film attached to the fastener tape continuously in a longitudinal direction thereof, as required by amended claim 1. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine JP 4-129502 with *Yoshida et al.* In JP 4-

129502, the reinforcement member is crimped along the outer side portions of the fastener tape. *Yoshida et al.* fails to disclose or suggest any reinforcing member along the outer side portions of the fastener tape. Thus, a skilled artisan would not look to *Yoshida et al.* as a guide for modifying the reinforcing member of JP 4-129502. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1, as well as claims 2 - 4 that depend therefrom, are allowable.

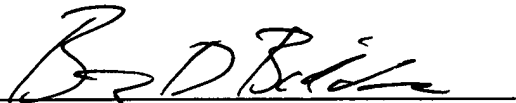
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 14, 2003

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